MFA, Inc. for twelve years as President and CEO. Bud has been a most-trusted advisor when it comes to policy and issues that impact production agriculture and rural America.

Bud says that one of the most important accomplishments of his tenure was to instill the idea that everyone has the opportunity to make a contribution to MFA. He felt that the honor in farming had reached a low in the 1970's. Bud took it upon himself single handedly to raise the pride of farmers back to the level of old days when a handshake was a handshake and your word was your word. Maybe that is why he received Missouri Farm Bureau's highest award, Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow's Recognition of Leadership Award, Ag Leader of the Year from Missouri Ag Industries and Man of the Year for Agriculture from Missouri Ruralist magazine.

He is experienced, wise, practical, honest, reflects the collective commonsense views of rural Missourians' and has the courage to fight for a position that may not be fashionable. Additionally, he has the quality that any doer and great leader has. He knows how to pick his battles and he knows how to win those battles he picks. Those closest to him know that Bud has the two things it takes to be a successful businessman: character and integrity.

I am sorry to see him go because he has been a hero for MFA and a critical leader for Missouri agriculture. However, besides all this, Bud is my friend so I am glad that he may have some time for himself and his family. I hope I am on his fishing invitation list. However, I warn him that he will still be called upon by me and my staff when the tough questions arise. On behalf of rural Missouri, I say to Bud, congratulations and thanks.●

IN ANTICIPATION OF THE UNIQUE SOUTH DAKOTA-MANITOBA EXCHANGE CONCERT

● Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I would like to honor the concert band from Tulare High School in Tulare, South Dakota, and the Garden Valley Collegiate school in Winkler, Manitoba, Canada for their participation in a special spring concert to be held in Manitoba on June 2.

This is an exciting opportunity for these band members and students to reach across the North American border, and together, promote the exchange of culture and ideas. The concert promises to be a very celebrated event, which should build bridges between these schools for a long time to come.

I would like to recognize the leadership of Sam Glantzow, band director at the Tulare High School. He has dedicated so much time and effort into seeing this important exchange take place. Also, I would like to thank Paul Moen, band director, and Karl Redekop, principal, from the Garden Valley Collegiate School. By extending an invitation across the border into South Dakota, they have made an important contribution to international dialogue and understanding. I admire these teachers and administrators for providing their students such a creative and unique opportunity.

I wish the students and teachers the best of luck for a beautiful and successful concert.●

THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as a physician and surgeon, I've had the opportunity to witness everyday the remarkable difference that medical science and technology have made in people's lives.

In just the short space of time that I've been practicing medicine—less than 20 years—I've seen how the products of medical research and development—lasers, mechanical cardiac assist devices, mechanical valves, automatic internal defibrillators—have not only saved but vastly improved the quality of hundreds of thousands of lives every year.

And as a physician, I can envision a future in which science and technology will roll back the current frontiers of medical knowledge, identify the causes, and eliminate most of the effects of the diseases that now plague mankind. It's absolutely astounding to contemplate.

However, as a Senator, I've been afforded a different opportunity. And that's the opportunity to see, and learn, and understand — not just medicine—but America. And, as a Senator, I can envision the difference that science and technology will make in the life of our Nation.

Mr. President, as a country of immigrants we are a people drawn from diverse backgrounds and ideas. And there is no doubt that this unique amalgamation is one source of our remarkable strength and resiliency. But as diverse as our individual heritages are, a common thread runs through all of us. That thread is our common heritage as Americans, and it unites and strengthens us as well.

Our forefathers came to this land to build a new life. Not surprisingly, they in turn created a nation of builders. We build homes. We build communities. We build factories and businesses. But most of all, Mr. President, we build futures—because we also build hope.

As a people, Americans rise to a challenge. And as a nation —to every challenge we've ever faced. At no time was this more apparent than during World War II when we were forced to make drastic sacrifices to survive. The legacy of those choices has driven our economy and our policies ever since, and one of those legacies is the federal investment in science and technology.

Science and technology have shaped our world in ways both grand and small. We've put men into space and looked into the farthest corners of the known universe. We've broken the code of the human genome and begun to dismantle previously incurable disease. We've created a virtual world and a whole new realm called cyberspace. Yet, technology also surrounds us in millions of little ways we no longer even notice: the computers that run our cars; the cellular phones that keep us in touch; the stop lights, the grocery store checkouts, the microwaves that help our lives run smoother and faster.

In my Senate office alone, technology has made a tremendous difference—both in terms of helping me keep in touch with the people of Tennessee, and by helping them access important information.

For example, while in the past Senators kept in touch by phone, letter, and trips to the state, today I regularly schedule video conferences with Tennessee schools—from the elementary to the university level. In March I spoke to the entire student body of George Washington Elementary School in Kingsport. Certain students were selected by their teachers to ask questions, and the rest watched on closed-circuit television. In April, I visited with students from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville. So, it no longer takes a week-end to speak with my constitutents face-to-face. At 11:50 that morning I was voting on the floor of the United States Senate; at noon, I was having a conversation with students in Tennessee.

And thanks to the Internet—another remarkable product of federal research funds—this one funded by DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency)—my Senate Website not only allows me to share my voting record, press releases, and speeches with constituents, it allows them to voice their opinions and concerns and ask questions about issues before the Senate.

Our office also uses a digital camera—which allows photographs to be downloaded, printed, and disseminated almost instantly. On a recent trip to Bosnia, for instance, I took pictures of our troops from Tennessee, downloaded them into my laptop, e-mailed them to local newspapers in Tennessee, as well as to my Washington office where they were posted on the Web for all to see. The whole process took only a few minutes.

As we can see, today's world runs on technology, and through its investment in research and development, the federal government has played a significant role in creating it. In fact, more than 56 percent of all basic research is produced with federal funds.

Much of our economy runs on technology as well. Half of all U.S. economic growth is the result of our technical progress. Technology helps provide new goods and services, new jobs and new capital, even whole new industries.

Developments in chemicals technology, for example, have lead to the production of new petrochemicals,